

REMARKS

The above amendments were made solely to remove multiple dependencies from the Claims and to remove reference numbers from the Claims and Abstract. None of such amendments were made for purposes of distinguishing over any prior art or for any other scope limiting purpose.

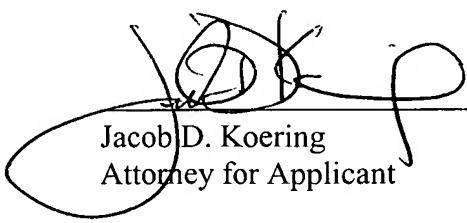
Upon entry of the foregoing, the application should be deemed in condition for substantive examination at the present time.

Should anything further be required, a telephone call to the undersigned, at (312) 226-1818, is respectfully invited.

Respectfully submitted,

FACTOR & LAKE, LTD.

Dated: January 23, 2004



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Patent Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 23, 2004.

Jacob D. Koering

Name of Applicant, assignee, applicant's attorney or Registered Representative



Signature